

Platte Valley Habitat Partnership

March 12, 2012



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The True Meaning of Collaboration



Snowfight.mpg

Overview

- 1:00 Introductions and Plan Writing Coordination
Discuss Plan Outline, Writing of the plan, Deadlines
- 2:00 Discuss Adaptive management Process and
Working Group: Straw man.
- 2:45 Mae Smith: Cheat grass mapping
- 3:00 Break
- 4:00 Monitoring: What criteria, what variables, at what
intervals, etc.? See Table.
- 5:30 Ian Tator: Habitat improvement support.
- 6:00 Adjourn

Platte Valley Habitat Plan Collaborative Process

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
Gain common understanding of issues, definitions and process.	Mule Deer Nutritional Needs, Vegetation Ecological Dynamics, Potential Improvement Actions. Focus on Private and Public Lands in Separate Meetings	Determine what steps PVHP wants to take to address habitat improvement in Plan #1	Determine Monitoring Variables to track change. Monitoring logistics. Create Adaptive Management Feedback Loops in PVHP	Draft Plan Review Publish Plan May 2013 Step 6 Implement Plan and Collaboratively Adapt
August	December	February	Late March	

Defining the decision-space

- PVHP is a partnership that convenes to collaboratively learn, plan, provide recommendations for strategies and support landowners and agencies in implementation. It has no decision-making authority. Whether its recommendations are carried out is up to each landowner, and each agency.
- The significance of PVHP lies the continued desire of diverse stakeholders to learn together and explore the possibility of reaching consensus, or very high agreement at a minimum. This high agreement is an important signal to all partners because it is based on shared information and on multiple stakeholder interests.
- Therefore WGFD will distribute funds to efforts that have at minimum high PVHP agreement i.e. two thirds present hold up 1 - 3 fingers. PVHP's recommendations will be based on learning, planning, implementation and adaptive management which WGFD believes will maximize the potential for improvement in mule deer habitat. Consensus is preferred.
- Demanding consensus in the beginning is too great a burden on PVHP and WGFD: in the beginning there will be more uncertainty and there needs to be flexibility to try different approaches to achieve the most in the long-term, and therefore progress. **So:** Consensus will be strived for, but high agreement accepted as defined above to create progress.

Five Finger Scale:



Participants show their level of agreement by the number of fingers they hold up:

- 1 Finger:** Complete Support (I like it very much)
- 2 Fingers:** Support (I'm very comfortable with this)
- 3 Fingers:** Agreement with Reservations (I can live with it)
- 4 Fingers:** Mild Agreement (I don't like this, but my reservations are not enough to hold up the process)
- 5 Fingers:** Disagreement (I don't support the proposal)

If all members of the group present express approval at levels 1, 2, 3 or 4, then the proposal is agreed to. The challenge to the group is to try to move people present from a higher to a lower number. **If some members present continue to disagree (level 5) after the group has tried to address their concerns, then consensus has not been reached and objections will be documented for future discussion. If 2/3rds of the group present (PVHP or working group) agree at a 1 - 3 level, the proposal moves forward.**

Plan Outline

- Chapter 1: Introduction (Daryl and Jess)
- Chapter 2 Collaboration and Public Process (Jess). Will elaborate on process re. vision, goal, objectives, criteria for success, monitoring and adaptive management.
- Chapter 3: Ryan and Will: Objective 1 on Winter, Summer and Transitional Ranges – Historical and Current Conditions and Strategies proposed to improve habitat for mule deer.
- Chapter 4: Heather: Implementation Strategy for Objective 1 on Private Lands.
- Chapter 5: Heather and Ryan: Implementation strategy of Objective 1 on USFS and BLM lands.
- Chapter 6: Implementation strategy for Objectives 2 through 5 related to Economics, Recreation, Landscape, Culture, Aesthetics and Agency Missions.
- Chapter 7: Monitoring Strategy (Mae, James, Chris, Ryan, Heather...?)
- Chapter 8: Conclusion (Daryl and Jess) – Adaptive Management and Next Steps.

Deadlines

- Monitoring meeting: March 26, 1 – 5 pm
Saratoga?
- First Drafts to Jess for Chapters: April 1
- Writers' meeting: April 12
- Daryl and Jess finalize formal Draft for distribution by April 19 and PVHP discussion on April 23.
- May 10: Distribute and post final First PVHP Plan.

PLATTE VALLEY HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

VISION

The Platte Valley Habitat Partnership considers the quality and quantity of the mule deer population in the Platte Valley important to its landscape and communities to preserve biodiversity, economic, recreational, cultural and aesthetic values.

GOAL

The Platte Valley Habitat Partnership's goal is to improve wildlife habitat with emphasis on sustainable mule deer populations.

Objective and Criteria 1: Biodiversity Value of the Mule Deer Herd

- ❖ **Objective 1: To improve habitat conditions to increase the population size and health of mule deer.**

Proposed Criteria :

- ❖ **Monitor species diversity of flora.**
- ❖ **Age Class Diversity of Shrubs**
- ❖ **Browse Class**
- ❖ **Shrub and herbaceous productivity.**
- ❖ **# of acres treated.**
- ❖ **Shrub recruitment.**
- ❖ **Pregnancy rates of mule deer (WGFD)**
- ❖ **Fat reserves of mule deer (WGFD)**
- ❖ **Population #'s of mule deer (WGFD)**
- ❖ **Doe-fawn ratios (WGFD)**
- ❖ **Mortality ratios (WGFD)**

Objective 1: To improve habitat conditions to increase the population size and health of mule deer

WGFD is working with the following Partners to implement projects, conduct monitoring and collect data for adaptive management:

1. USFS: Summer and Transition Ranges
2. BLM: Transition and Winter Ranges
3. SERCD and Private Landowners: Winter and Transition Ranges

Proposed Monitoring Table

Desired Condition

Desired trends	Variables to measure	Methods	At what point measured	Scale of analysis	Notes

Desired Trend: Establish a complex mosaic of forest density, size and age (at stand and treatment scales)

Decreased basal areas (Strategy)	Basal area	Measure for larger trees (≥ 2.5 " DBH) using variable radius prism plots (10 or 20 BAF) ¹ Count seedlings and saplings (< 2.5 " DBH) in fixed radius 1/200 ac (8.3' radius) plot	Before treatment After treatment 5 and 10 years after treatment	Treat ment Unit	Example data: 40-80 ft ² per acre (1" DBH and above); however, expert review suggested this is site
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Who will implement, monitor and collect data on the other Objectives?

Objective 2: To enhance economic benefits to landowners, communities and dependent interests by improving habitat to increase the population size and health of mule deer.

Objective 3: To enhance recreational benefits by improving habitat to increase the population size and health of mule deer.

Objective 4: To maintain the character of the Platte Valley landscape, culture and aesthetics by improving habitat to increase the population size and health of mule deer.

Objective #5: To facilitate state and federal agencies to serve their constituents in a manner compatible with their missions by working to improve habitat for mule deer and

Objective and Criteria 2: Economic Value of the Mule Deer Herd

- ❖ **Objective 2: To enhance economic benefits to landowners, communities and dependent interests by improving habitat to increase the population size and health of mule deer.**

Proposed Criteria :

- ❖ **# of hunters and other mule deer related recreationists (work with WGFD).**
- ❖ **Outfitter revenues (work with Chamber)**
- ❖ **Hospitality revenues (work with Chamber)**
- ❖ **Livestock AUM's (work with Conservation District)**
- ❖ **# of license applicants (work with WGFD)**

Objective and Criteria 3: Recreational Value of the Mule Deer Herd

- ❖ **Objective 3: To enhance recreational benefits by improving habitat to increase the population size and health of mule deer.**

Proposed Criteria :

- ❖ **Hunter Satisfaction Surveys (WGFD)**
- ❖ **Revenue**
- ❖ **Visitor Surveys (USFS)**
- ❖ **Field personnel contacts (BLM and USFS)**
- ❖ **Increase in political support**
- ❖ **Increase in support from more groups and funders (Attendance and \$\$)**
- ❖ **Types of Chamber of Commerce Requests (Chamber)**

Objective and Criteria 4: Cultural and Aesthetic Value of the Mule Deer Herd

- ❖ **Objective 4: To maintain the character of the Platte Valley landscape, culture and aesthetics by improving habitat to increase the population size and health of mule deer.**

Proposed Criteria:

- ❖ **Modify existing USFS visitor use surveys to address Cultural and Aesthetic Values.**
- ❖ **Modify WGFD hunter satisfaction surveys to address Cultural and Aesthetic Values.**
- ❖ **Look at BLM public perception surveys.**
- ❖ **Develop Community Survey for Platte Valley, baseline and changes.**
- ❖ **Develop landowner survey.**
- ❖ **Look at WGFD's PVMDI survey**

Objective and Criteria 5: Mission Compatibility for State and Federal Agencies

- ❖ **Objective #5: To facilitate state and federal agencies to serve their constituents in a manner compatible with their missions by working to improve habitat for mule deer and other species and purposes.**

Proposed Criteria:

- ❖ **# of projects that cross ownership and jurisdictional boundaries**
- ❖ **Mix of funding to complete projects.**

To Do:

Chapters:

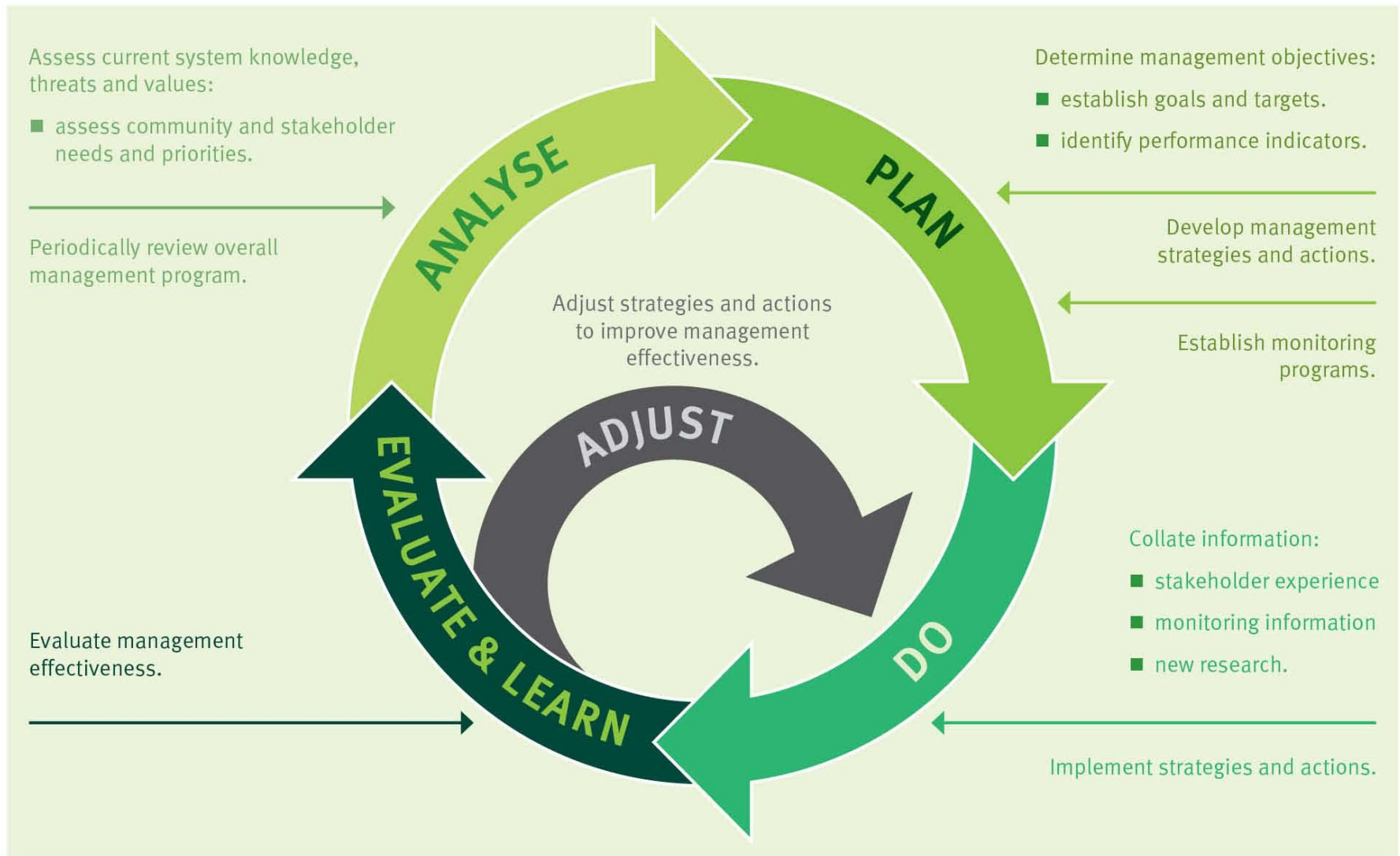
2

3

4

5

Adaptive management cycle



N.B. Adapted from CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research 2009

Proposed Adaptive Management Schedule for 2013 - 2014

Period	Action	Subjects	Result
Fall and Winter 2012, Spring 2013 (WG = Working Group)	Plan	Vision, Goal, Objectives, Criteria for Success, Adaptive Management, Decision Making Process, Funding Methods, Habitat Strategies, Monitoring Strategies, Next Steps.	PVHP Plan I
Summer 2013	Do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Implementation • Base line and project monitoring • Project Development for Private and Public lands 	Monitoring data New Projects based on PVHP Strategies.
Fall 2013	Evaluate and Analyze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring Data • Project Proposals (PVHP and WG) • Project Implementation Experiences • New Research 	New Projects for 2014 Adjusted (if necessary) Implementation based on Experience and Research.
Spring 2014	Plan	Funding and Implementation of	PVHP Plan II

Working Group Formation

Contribution to PVHP (Duties):

Review and recommend project proposals by private and public land managers.

Consists of: One person per stakeholder types (volunteers)

1. Private Landowners
2. Federal land management agencies
3. Wildlife conservation NGO's
4. Wyoming Environmental NGO's
5. Sports person
6. Outfitters and guides
7. Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.
8. Local government
9. Conservation district associates
10. Local community organizations

Desired Condition

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